

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

Earlier this month you signed an Executive Order aiming to make the federal government more “efficient, effective and accountable to the American people” by consolidating, removing redundancy, and implementing technological advances. The goal of eliminating waste, making the government work better and saving the taxpayer’s money is a bipartisan goal, one shared by your predecessors since President Reagan and by many members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. We are writing to you because we strongly believe that one project critical to meeting these goals is the construction of a new headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Today, the FBI is inefficiently dispersed throughout 14 locations in the region, including many that lack modern and secure facilities. The J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, D.C. is dilapidated, underutilized, outdated and literally falling apart. It is embarrassing that an agency that is focusing on cybercrime and international terrorism is routinely hampered by a lack of state-of-the-art resources.

The long, slow decline of the Hoover Building would have never occurred in the private sector. This is a highly prominent example of the federal government failing to address a relatively straightforward real estate transaction. Nearly 5 years after the search for a new consolidated headquarters began, the federal government is months behind schedule, no site has been selected and we fear we are on the precipice of the entire endeavor falling apart. In March, the General Services Administration announced yet another delay despite expectations to the contrary. This is not in the best interests of thousands of FBI employees, taxpayers or our national security.

To help mitigate the costs of such a large-scale project, GSA has proposed a property-swap of the Hoover Building in addition to Congressional appropriations to build the new facility. To date, Congress has appropriated \$390M with an additional \$1.4B needed in Fiscal Year 2017 to continue moving forward. Due to GSA's latest delay, dependent upon Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations, the project continues to face uncertainty.

Two of the three sites identified as potential locations for the FBI campus are in Prince George's County. The sites in Greenbelt and Landover meet all the FBI's requirements, can deliver the headquarters on- time and cost-effectively unlike the competing Virginia location, and the state and county have committed \$300 million to fund the needed infrastructure improvements. Further, for too long there has been an unequal distribution of federal resources in our region. Prince George's County has less than 4 percent of the region's federal office leasing space. More than 75,000 federal workers reside in the County. This continued inequity hurts hundreds of thousands of families in our State.

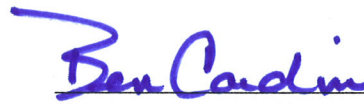
We are heartened that your proposed FY2018 budget increases GSA's discretionary spending authority to \$500 million - a \$200 million increase from GSA's current budget authority and significantly higher than the previous Administration's proposal. But at this critical juncture as the Maryland delegation works to secure the needed appropriations, your leadership is needed to shepherd this project to a site selection and groundbreaking. The new FBI headquarters is potentially the largest government development in nearly fifty years and the opportunity to redevelop the current Hoover Building property could similarly be transformative. We ask that you designate a member of your team to move the project forward. Moving forward without your direct involvement risks further delay, escalating costs and waning interest from the current bidders.

We look forward to working with you to seal the deal on this project and finally bring it to fruition. It is critical to make our country safer and is important to our constituents and the American people.

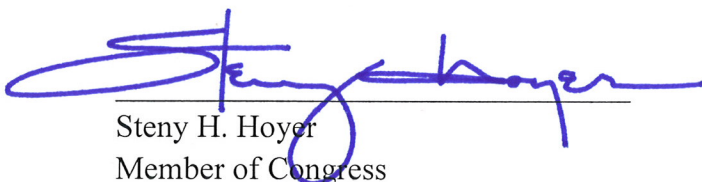
Sincerely,



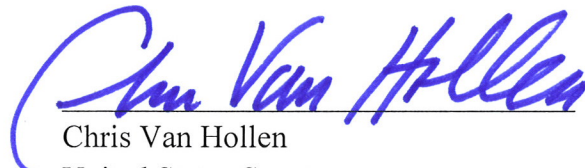
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator